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Arnold Schwarzenegger
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13 September 2006


Ms. Tam M. Dudoc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PILOT PROGRAM UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On 29 June 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by parties from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County. The MOU specifies activities in support of the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program. These support activities constitute the MOU Pilot Program that will be effective for 24 months.

As required by the MOU, the staff liaisons from the Central Valley Water Board and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County submit Quarterly Reports of the activities performed under the contract and any recommendations to improve the MOU Pilot Program.

The Quarterly Reports from each of the three staff liaisons are attached. If you have questions regarding this Quarterly Report or the MOU Pilot Program, please contact Ms. Margaret Wong at (916) 464-4857, or by e-mail at mawong@waterboards.ca.gov.


for PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Celeste Cantú, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Ms. Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Mr. Mark Black, Agricultural Commissioner, Glenn County
Mr. Richard Price, Agricultural Commissioner, Butte County
Mr. Tom Howard, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Mr. Daniel Merkley, Agricultural Coordinator, State Water Resources Control Board
Mr. Mark Rentz, Deputy Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Mr. Jerry Prieto, President, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

California Environmental Protection Agency



Attachment A

MOU Pilot Program

Quarterly Report – Second Quarter 2006

Central Valley Water Board

June 2006

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 29 June 2005 between the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and the Agricultural Commissioners of Glenn County and Butte County that pertains solely to activities related to the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program (Irrigated Lands Program). These activities constitute the MOU Pilot Program.

The purposes of the MOU are to initiate appropriate interaction between the Central Valley Water Board, the Agricultural Commissioners, and growers on a local level; utilize the skills and knowledge of each participant to accomplish the goals of the Irrigated Lands Program; and to collaborate, implement, and coordinate with other agencies and non-governmental organizations to control nonpoint sources of pollution.

The MOU is effective for 24 months after which, upon completion of a review by all parties, the MOU may be renewed, revised or terminated. The current contract between the Central Valley Water Board and each of the Agricultural Commissioners was executed on 27 December 2005 and was extended for one fiscal year (from 30 June 2006 to 30 June 2007) to allow for the delay in execution. The contract provides funding for 0.5 PY to each of the Agricultural Commissioners as specified in the MOU.

This Attachment A contains the Central Valley Water Board staff's quarterly report. The Butte County and Glenn County Agricultural Commissioners' staff wrote Attachments B and C, respectively, which contain the quarterly reports of their activities.

Central Valley Water Board Staff Activities under the MOU Pilot Program

During the second quarter of 2006, the Central Valley Water Board staff liaison met only once with the Agricultural Commissioners due to the storm season and the inability to coordinate schedules due to other priorities for all liaison staff. The liaisons maintained communication through e-mail and phone calls.

The 19 May 2006 meeting included discussions about the work performed to date, work schedules for the rest of the year and the status of planting and pesticide application. Agricultural Commissioners' staff received information about the proposed Conditional Waiver renewal and the process the Central Valley Water Board follows in considering the

proposed Order. In a meeting on 6 July in Willows, the staff liaison gave a summary of the Order as adopted on 22 June and the two items the Central Valley Water Board would consider revising at the 3-4 August meeting.

Program Support from Agricultural Commissioners and Their Staff

This quarter's activities performed by Agricultural Commissioners staff have supported the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program by:

- gathering and documenting information on management practices and their effectiveness on individual farms
- initiating a Management Practices report
- providing outreach to applicators, irrigators and growers on the Irrigated Lands Program
- assessing and evaluating monitoring sites to determine if they are representative of agricultural runoff and discharges
- providing up-to-date information on pesticide use and agricultural operations
- acting as a direct contact for information about the Irrigated Lands Program with other agencies

General Findings

This quarter's work was influenced by the late storm season and work priorities of the staff liaisons. The Agricultural Commissioners' staff liaisons were required to perform application inspections under their contract with DPR. Central Valley Water Board staff liaison was involved in review of Coalition monitoring and technical reports for the Irrigated Lands Program.

Communications between the staff liaisons focused on the Irrigated Lands Program goals of documenting management practices and their effectiveness in protecting water quality. Agricultural Commissioners' staff inspected farms that incorporate management practices into their operations and documented effective methods for presentation to growers in outreach meetings. Staff liaisons have also discussed outreach with agencies and groups, such as Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), subwatershed groups, and the UC Cooperative Extension, on the MOU Pilot Program and the Irrigated Lands Program.

Recommendations/Changes to Contract or MOU

No changes are recommended at this point. Staff will continue to work closely with the Agricultural Commissioners and their staff to further the goals of the MOU Pilot Program.

Attachment B

MOU Pilot Program

Quarterly Report – Second Quarter 2006

Butte County Department of Agriculture

July 2006

As required by contract # 05-183-150-0, the Butte County Department of Agriculture (Butte County) is to provide the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) with a quarterly report of activities as it relates to the scope of work for the Irrigated Lands Program (ILP) contract.

Task 1) *Provide information/maps and inspect and investigate sites for the ILP as authorized by the Regional Board.*

- A. *Provide currently available maps of the County delineating natural water bodies, constructed agricultural drains and canals to assist the Regional Board in identifying releases into waters of the state.*

GIS hydrological data collection is ongoing. As more hydrological information becomes available the database will be up-dated. This sub-task was completed and delivered on schedule.

Recommendations: None

- B. *As authorized by the Regional Board Contract Manager, perform a minimum of 5 pesticide application inspections per year based on water quality issues identified by Regional Board, Coalition Groups/Individual Dischargers, or the Commissioner.*

One orchard pesticide application inspection was performed during this quarter, on April 13th. This sub-task is ongoing and as pesticide application activities increase inspections will be performed.

Recommendations: none

- C. *As authorized by the Regional Board Contract Manager, perform investigations to identify sources of water quality exceedances.*

An MOU with adjacent counties is being developed so that county staff, working on the MOU Pilot Program, can assist adjacent counties and watersheds with follow-up investigations on monitoring exceedances. This sub-task is ongoing.

Recommendations: None

Task 2) Inspect, assess and document management practices used in agricultural operations to protect water quality.

- A. As agreed between the Regional Board Contract Manager and County Liaison, inspect a minimum of 5 sites to identify management practices that protect water quality and determine their effectiveness.*

Butte County staff continues to evaluate agricultural management practices that appear to protect water quality. Four agricultural sites have been evaluated to date. The most recent was completed June 19th. This sub-task is ongoing.

Recommendations: The development of a standard checklist of evaluation criteria would be helpful in conducting this task.

- B. Identify, evaluate and document management practices that are specific and appropriate to activities and operations within the watershed.*

As agricultural site inspections are conducted Butte County staff continues to compile a list of observed management practices. The development of a practical format in which to present the data, has proven to be more difficult than the data collection process itself.

Recommendations: The first BMP report format will likely require continual revision.

- C. Take part in the development of integrated management practices to protect water quality.*

By way of task 2A, Butte County Ag Commissioner staff assisted a rancher in taking the first step to accessing funding through NRCS for the development of a tail water recovery system. This sub-task is ongoing and staff will provide information as the BMP evaluation process and a list develops.

Recommendations: None

Task 3) Assist the Regional Board in evaluating sample monitoring points for agricultural wastewater discharges within Butte County.

- A. Inspect sampling points designated in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) or the California Rice Commission (CRC) Monitoring and Reporting Program within the County. To determine if representative samples of agricultural wastewater discharges can be obtained at the designated sample points and at sampling times.*

This sub-task was completed and delivered on schedule. The sub-task is ongoing and County staff will provide follow-up information as required.

Recommendations: None

- B. Provide a list of pesticides being used in the County and inform the Regional Board when new chemicals/pesticides are used.*

This sub-task was delivered on schedule and is ongoing, county staff will provide up-dated information as it becomes available.

Recommendations: None

Task 4) Coordinate and conduct outreach to growers on management practices that protect water quality.

- A. Participate in outreach programs to assist the ILP participants in complying with management practices to protect water quality.*

Butte County staff has provided outreach through PowerPoint and oral presentations to an additional 116 irrigators/growers at SVWQC meetings and other affiliated groups and organization meetings. Handouts and brochures that explain the Ag Waiver and MOU Pilot Program, Coalition efforts and activities within sub-watersheds continue to be provided at pesticide permit appointments. This sub-task is ongoing and will continue as opportunities for outreach present themselves.

Recommendations: continue out reach efforts.

- B. Evaluate outreach efforts and help the Regional Board staff design programs on management practices to protect water quality.*

At this time, Butte County staff has not evaluated outreach efforts. This sub-task is ongoing.

Recommendations: None.

Task 5) Assist Regional Board staff by providing information and input that will further the implementation of the ILP.

- A. Coordinate with other agencies associated with agricultural operations on management practices that protect water quality.*

Butte County continues to coordinate with the Agricultural Offices of Glenn, Tehama, Yuba and Sutter and with members of the Butte-Yuba-Sutter watershed and Resource Conservation Districts. Eleven additional meetings related to the ILP was attended this quarter

Recommendations: none.

- B. Other activities agreed upon by both parties that fall under the purview of the MOU and this contract.*

Comment: None

Attachment C
MOU Pilot Program
Quarterly Report – Second Quarter 2006
Glenn County Department of Agriculture
July 2006

As required by contract # 05-182-150-0, the Glenn County Department of Agriculture (Glenn County) is to provide the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) with a quarterly report of activities as it relates to the scope of work for the Irrigated Lands Program (ILP) contract. Following is a list of the tasks:

Task 1) *Provide information/maps and inspect and investigate sites for the ILP as authorized by the Regional Board.*

- A. Provide currently available maps of the County delineating natural water bodies, constructed agricultural drains and canals to assist the Regional Board in identifying releases into waters of the state.*

There has been no additional work requested this quarter. This sub-task is ongoing and as more information becomes available or requested, additional layers can be added.

Comment: The Arc View pesticide permitting program discussed in the previous quarterly report is progressing. There have been 33 County Agricultural Commissioner offices in California that have committed to utilizing the program. During the upcoming quarter the infrastructure for the program will be developed for implementation in at least 15 of the 33 Counties. Training manuals are being created and workshops on program capabilities will be held. Estimated time for completion for trial use for Glenn County is September 2006. The Contract Manager will be kept informed of progress.

- B. As authorized by the Regional Board Contract Manager, perform a minimum of 5 pesticide application inspections per year based on water quality issues identified by Regional Board, Coalition Groups/Individual Dischargers, or the Commissioner.*

Glenn County staff did not perform any inspections this quarter. A schedule outlining inspection goals during the upcoming quarter has been forwarded to the Contract Manager for approval. This sub-task is ongoing and as pesticide application activities increase, additional inspections will be performed.

Comment: The Regional Board has added a new staff member for the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC), which will allow the Contract Manager to spend more time in the field with County liaison to overview inspections, monitoring locations, and management practices.

- C As authorized by the Regional Board Contract Manager, perform investigations to identify sources of water quality exceedances.*

The February-March 2006 storm season sampling event indicated pesticide exceedances in the Colusa Sub-watershed of Simazine and Diazinon (see attached grower list and example outreach letter). Pesticide use was examined for the period from January 1 through February 28, 2006. The list of growers identified as having reported use of these pesticides was forwarded to the sub-watershed coordinator who in turn notified those growers of the exceedances and reminded them of the use of best management practices when applying these and any other pesticide. This sub-task is ongoing and Glenn County liaison staff is prepared to perform additional investigations as requested.

Recommendations: None

- Task 2) Inspect, assess and document management practices used in agricultural operations to protect water quality.*

- A. As agreed between the Regional Board Contract Manager and County Liaison, inspect a minimum of 5 sites to identify management practices that protect water quality and determine their effectiveness.*

See task 1.B.

- B. Identify, evaluate and document management practices that are specific and appropriate to activities and operations within the watershed.*

See task 1.B.

- C. Take part in the development of integrated management practices to protect water quality.*

There are many management practices already in place within Glenn County and previously documented by the Glenn County Surface Water Stewardship Program. Examples of these practices include micro and drip irrigation systems, recirculation systems, and water hold requirements for specific pesticides. To date, Glenn County has not further developed any integrated management practices. This sub-task is ongoing and staff will provide information as practices are developed.

Recommendations: None

- Task 3) Assist the Regional Board in evaluating sample monitoring points for agricultural wastewater discharges within Glenn County.*

- A. Inspect sampling points designated in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) or the California Rice Commission (CRC) Monitoring and*

Reporting Program within the County to determine if representative samples of agricultural wastewater discharges can be obtained at the designated sample points and at sampling times.

Glenn County liaison staff has continued to coordinate with sampling staff for the SVWQC's irrigation season and the California Rice Commission's initial sampling event of 2006. The Regional Board Contract Manager was shown sites in the Colusa Sub-watershed and the Shasta-Tehama Sub-watershed to become familiar with the surroundings and cropping patterns.

Recommendations: None

- B. Provide a list of pesticides being used in the County and inform the Regional Board when new chemicals/pesticides are used.*

Glenn County liaison staff has provided the Regional Board Contract Manager with the list of pesticides used in Glenn County in 2005 list from the County use reports. The 2005 DPR data will not be available online until October 2006. A meeting with a chemical distributor representative (Pest Control Advisor) indicated that there will be more in-season insect sprays on almonds this year and pesticides containing abamectin will be on the increase. This sub-task is ongoing and staff will provide information as it is received.

Recommendations: None

- Task 4) Coordinate and conduct outreach to growers on management practices that protect water quality.*

- A. Participate in outreach programs to assist the ILP participants in complying with management practices to protect water quality.*

Glenn County liaison staff has provided outreach at attendance of SVWQC meetings and by conference call to the coalition's BMP committee. Progress on the pilot program was presented to the Butte County Water Commission, the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Associations spring conference. There have been many phone calls answered to growers concerning receipt of 13267 enforcement letters. County liaison staff intends to continue to attend SVWQC meetings and provide outreach to sub-watersheds as requested. This sub-task is ongoing and as additional opportunities for promotion of the ILP present themselves, County liaison staff will participate.

Recommendations: Outreach on the sub-watershed level is extremely important. Efforts to reach individuals to participate in the ILP have been more successful. Policies regarding landowner participation are becoming clearer and assistance to sub-watersheds by local Agricultural Commissioner's continues to be necessary for the program to be successful.

B. Evaluate outreach efforts and help the Regional Board staff design programs on management practices to protect water quality.

At this time, Glenn County liaison staff has not evaluated outreach efforts. This sub-task is ongoing.

Recommendations: Continue to find ways to provide funding for the Coalition for Urban and Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) to further their successful efforts in this area.

Task 5) Assist Regional Board staff by providing information and input that will further the implementation of the ILP.

A. Coordinate with other agencies associated with agricultural operations on management practices that protect water quality.

Glenn County liaison staff continues to coordinate with the Agricultural Commissioners of Butte, Colusa, Tehama, and Shasta Counties and with members of the Colusa and Shasta-Tehama sub-watersheds. This type of coordination and notification is essential within our departments. The sharing of information in their possession is necessary for any and all investigative activities that may be requested by Regional Board staff. This sub-task is ongoing.

Recommendations: This process may be improved by directing funds to cover the costs for their assistance.

B. Other activities agreed upon by both parties that fall under the purview of the MOU and this contract.

Recommendation: As presented in the last quarterly report, the Memorandum of Understanding developed by county water managers of Glenn, Butte, Tehama, and Colusa furthers coordination and collaborative efforts in water issues. By having this in place, a pathway exists for the exchange of information from pilot program Agricultural Commissioners to surrounding Agricultural Commissioners that can provide information necessary to assist the Regional Board in the ILP. This MOU process is under consideration for expansion to the Counties of Shasta, Yuba, Sutter, and Yolo.

ATTACHMENT C-1

P.O. Box 1205 * Willows * CA * 95988
Phone: 530-934-9678
Email: cbsubwatershed@sbcglobal.net

June 21, 2006

Dear Grower,

This letter is to inform you of Regional Water Quality Control Board Irrigated Lands Program required storm season water quality monitoring sampling has resulted in a potential problem of diazinon and simazine exceedance in the Stony Creek Watershed. We are required to initiate communications with growers in the sub-watershed area that have used these pesticides.

Results of sampling performed in Stony Creek on behalf of the Colusa Basin Sub-watershed Program and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition during March have exceeded the threshold for toxicity.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pesticide</u>	<u>Detection</u>	<u>Allowable</u>	<u>Measurement</u>
Stony Creek on Hwy 45 near Rd 24	03/01/2006	Simazine	4.71	4	ug/L
Stony Creek on Hwy 45 near Rd 24	03/01/2006	Diazinon	.222	0.05	ug/L

Prior to the use of any and all pesticides, growers need to consider the use of best management practices (BMP's) to minimize the movement of pesticides from the application area of their property into areas that drain into the waters of the state. The use of BMP's is voluntary, but if problems continue, mandatory practices and conditions may be put in place.

Information on BMP's is available to growers through the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) at www.cures.org or at the Department of Agriculture office in Willows. Feel free to contact either for more information.

Cc: Glenn County Farm Bureau
Northern California Water Association

ATTACHMENT C-2
Glenn County Pesticide Use for Diazinon and Simazine
1/1/2006 – 2/28/2006

Diazinon

<u>Grower/Permit #</u>	<u>Site(s)#</u>	<u>Watershed/Sampling Point</u>
Mike Vereschagin / 1100156	P1,P2,HCD,Shop	Colusa Drain/Stony Creek
Mark Weems/ 1101124	1,2	Colusa Drain/Stony Creek
Ron Linzy / 1100442	1	Stony Creek
Lohse Ranch / 1100057	L21	Colusa Drain
Lohse Bros. / 1100107	G23, M8, G24	Colusa Drain
M and M Farms/ 1100777	1,2,4,5,6	Colusa Drain
Hardial Singh Thaira / 1100042	1,2	Colusa Drain
Spurlock Ranch / 1100061	P30, P31, P32	Stone Corral Creek
Emerald Farms / 0600216	LB12	Stone Corral Creek
Mark Gollnick / 1100518	2	Stony Creek
Jasper Ranch / 1100124	11,15,16,18,3	Colusa Drain/Stony Creek
Larrabee & Associates / 1100095	205-215	Butte Creek/Angel Slough
Edward Souza/ 1100692	2	Stony Creek
Bob Sexton/ 1100682	1	Stony Creek
Dave Smith / 1101037	1	Colusa Drain
3 V Ranch / 1100322	2	Colusa Drain
Ben Kermen/ 1100295	1	Stony Creek

Simazine

<u>Grower/Permit #</u>	<u>Site(s)#</u>	<u>Watershed/Sampling Point</u>
Vincent Cleek/ 1100214	1	Stony Creek
Embry and Stokes / 1101181	2	Colusa Drain
Norman Moore / 1100757	1	Colusa Drain
Byron George/ 0400438	1	Stony Creek
Shawn Giesbrecht / 1100553	Wal1, Alm1, Alm2	Colusa Drain
R&D Farms / 1100077	46	Colusa Drain
Greg Watts / 1100212	1,2	Colusa Drain
Jasper Ranch/ 1100124	1,4,7,8,10,20	Colusa Drain
David Alves / 1100712	10,11,5,8	Colusa Drain
Aguire Ranch/ 1100712	2	Colusa Drain
J.G. Bratten / 0400843	1	Stony Creek
Wayne Foltz / 1100261	1	Stony Creek
Bart Harwell / 1101258	1	Colusa Drain
Jerry Jackson / 1101267	1	Stony Creek
CF Koehnen / 1103620	9,6,3,2,10,12,14	Colusa Drain/Stony Creek
Lohse Ranch / 100057	L23, L25, L28	Colusa Drain
Ed Moore / 1100269	1	Colusa Drain
Saul Medina / 1101012	2	Stony Creek
Milton Ollenberger / 1101074	2	Stony Creek
Weber Ranch / 1100359	10,11,15	Colusa Drain
Mike Vereschagin / 1100156	Taylor 20,TIMSO	Colusa Drain
Glenn County /1100150	Roadsides	Colusa Drain/Stony Creek/Stone Corral
Keyawa Orchards/0400855	Roads and Ditches	Colusa Drain/Butte Creek
Kelven Landrith / 1100696	Roads and Ditches	Stony Creek